

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAFinal Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1949-50.

There still are a few minor wheat districts where the completion of the collection has been delayed, and a number of odd returns from farmers in other districts are outstanding but, rather than delay the final results, a safe estimate has been made for all these and hence the totals now submitted may be accepted subject to slight alteration.

SEASONAL CONDITIONS. The months of April, June and August 1949 were very dry, and the rainfall for May and August was only average, the result being that the total average rainfall over the Agricultural Areas for the period April to August was only 584 points compared with the mean for the previous 44 years of 836 points. Warm drying conditions prevailed during September and continued until October 8 and 9, when there were good general rains which were followed by further good falls during the remainder of October and during November. Before the October rains, prospects were for a wheat crop of only 15,000,000 bushels but conditions so improved that a yield of 27,700,000 bushels was forecast in December. Apparently the improvement was greater than the farmers realised and harvesting conditions were favorable with the result that an actual harvest of 28,346,935 bushels has been obtained. The average yield of 14.95 bushels compared with the 44 years' mean of 10.77 is very satisfactory considering the unpromising start to the season.

The yield of barley was estimated at 11,850,000 bushels but it was intimated that it possibly would be 12,500,000 bushels or more. The actual harvest was 12,743,751 bushels. It was increased to a certain extent by the harvesting of second growth from the late rains.

The yield of oats also was slightly above the forecast - 3,463,116 bushels compared with 3,250,000.

NOTE:- The 1949-50 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1948-49 in parentheses. For statistical purposes, the weight of bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 28,346,935 (26,136,346) bushels averaged 14.95 (12.67) bushels per acre from an area of 1,896,719 (2,063,034) acres including areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 2,005,097 (2,159,218) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land 1,466,860 acres of wheat produced 23,883,211 bushels averaging 16.28 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 429,859 acres with 4,473,724 bushels averaging 10.41 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 14.35 bushels on fallow land and 6.65 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 12,743,751 (12,103,446) bushels and the average per acre was 18.31 (17.35). 11,982,421 bushels were reported to be 2 row (malting) and 761,330 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 695,987 (697,751) and for all purposes 724,061 (728,398). The 1949-50 yield has only been exceeded by the 1947-48 yield 15,363,461 bushels.

OATS:- The yield totalled 3,463,116 (2,643,419) bushels and the average per acre was 13.26 (9.23). The acreage for grain was 261,232 (286,540) acres and for all purposes 623,628 (622,538).

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS:- Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March 1950. For seed - Wheat 2,220,087, Barley 897,426 and Oats 753,753 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 1,080,620, Barley 617,186, Oats 781,194 bushels and Hay and Chaff 204,157 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1949-50, it was reported that 2,191,680 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 526,269 bushels for feed.

RYE:- There has been a decided increase in the areas cropped with rye. In 1935-36 there were only 1,680 acres and for 1949-50 a total of 53,500 of which 39,519 (41,085) were for grain yielding 220,135 (258,655) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 158,567 (168,187) bushels from 15,474 (15,280) acres.

HAY:- 291,563 (234,292) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 98,267 (80,490) and oaten 145,091 (112,400) acres. The total yield was 376,779 (311,997) tons, wheaten being 134,233 (109,514) and oaten 166,247 (131,677). Average tons per acre were 1.29 (1.33).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year for wheat: for 1939-40 - the maximum year for barley (until 1947-48) and oats; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for 1945-46 - showing the large increase during the two seasons; for each of the next four seasons, and for 1950-51 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the past 3 or 4 months. Particulars of actual sowings are being collected at present to ascertain whether or not farmers put in the full areas that they had intended. It is noted that the combined areas under wheat, barley and oats was decreasing slightly each year, the decrease for wheat being greater than the increases for barley and oats, but larger increases for barley and oats are expected for 1950-51.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Barley</u>	<u>Oats</u>	<u>Total</u>
1930-31 acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1939-40 "	2,948,110	558,559	834,793	4,341,462
1943-44 "	1,675,778	304,382	558,065	2,538,225
1945-46 "	2,407,253	479,384	686,128	3,572,765
1946-47 "	2,662,150	520,027	485,736	3,667,913
1947-48 "	2,486,505	580,682	559,931	3,627,118
1948-49 "	2,159,213	728,398	622,588	3,510,204
1949-50 "	2,005,097	724,061	623,628	3,352,786
1950-51 "	1,955,000	775,000	725,000	3,455,000

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats will be published later.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1949-50 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1949-50 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

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28th July, 1950.



STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.  
FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS & HAY, 1949-50

1. ACREAGE CROPPED

Divisions	Total Cereals Peas, Hay Forage	GRAIN			Hay Total	Fed Off Areas (total)
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Central	859,764	336,483	303,248	31,247	119,691	56,144
Lower North	757,465	499,652	129,192	33,871	49,885	40,465
Upper North	160,442	135,331	4,038	6,814	11,051	2,321
South Eastern	106,951	25,722	18,198	17,718	35,722	8,739
Western	993,994	561,755	111,711	137,066	40,566	140,432
Murray Mallee	598,981	337,776	129,600	34,516	34,648	29,002
Total 1949/50	3,477,597	1,896,719	695,987	261,232	291,563	277,103
Total 1948-49	3,629,670	2,063,034	697,751	286,540	234,292	291,688
Decrease	152,073	166,315	1,764	25,308	Increase 57,271	14,585

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY.

Divisions	GRAIN						Hay
	Wheat		Barley		Oats		Total
	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	Bush	Aver	Tons
Central	5,720,662	17.00	5,816,589	19.18	525,499	16.82	174,090
Lower North	9,246,582	18.51	2,058,158	15.93	598,437	17.67	60,559
Upper North	2,408,305	17.80	80,985	20.06	122,222	17.94	15,087
South Eastern	569,133	22.13	438,312	24.09	403,225	22.76	58,608
Western	6,839,348	12.19	2,328,713	20.84	1,479,806	10.80	37,774
Murray Mallee	3,562,905	10.55	2,020,994	15.59	333,927	9.67	30,661
Total 1949/50	28,346,935	14.95	12,743,751	18.31	3,463,116	13.26	376,779
Total 1948-49	26,136,346	12.67	12,103,446	17.35	2,643,419	9.23	311,997
Increase	2,210,589	2.28	640,305	0.96	819,697	4.03	64,782

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov.	BARLEY Yield	OATS Yield
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acre			
	Acres	Bush.	Bush.	Inches	Bush	Bush
1944-45	1,623,145	9,244,211	5.70	8.84	3,184,831	1,316,283
1945-46	2,165,004	21,033,841	9.72	10.74	7,566,146	3,178,450
1946-47	2,518,948	27,906,001	11.08	10.13	8,424,067	2,780,364
1947-48	2,374,873	32,524,422	13.70	13.93	15,363,461	5,394,261
1948-49	2,063,034	26,136,346	12.67	11.73	12,103,446	2,643,419
Mean	2,149,000	23,368,964	10.57	11.07	9,328,389	3,062,555
1949/50	1,896,719	28,346,935	14.95	12.18	12,743,751	3,463,116

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